

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-29 remain pending. Claims 1 and 5 are independent.

§ 103 REJECTION –CONVENTIONAL ART, JOHNSON

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the conventional art (hereinafter referred to as “CA”) as illustrated in Figures 1-3 of the present disclosure in view of Johnson (U.S. patent 2,443,826). Applicants respectfully traverse.

For a Section 103 rejection to be proper, a *prima facie* case of obviousness must be established. *See M.P.E.P. 2142*. One requirement to establish *prima facie case* of obviousness is that the prior art references, when combined, must teach or suggest all claim limitations. *See M.P.E.P. 2142; M.P.E.P. 706.02(j)*. Thus, if the cited references fail to teach or suggest one or more elements, then the rejection is improper and must be withdrawn.

In this instance, the combination of CA and Johnson fails to teach or suggest all features of the claimed invention. For example, independent claim 1 recites, in part “a core material portion fixed to said stamper by a fixing structure, wherein said fixing structure comprises at least one fastening

member, wherein said at least one fastening member extends through said core material into said stamper.” In other words, the fastening member is used to fix the core material portion and the stamper in relation to each other. Both the CA and Johnson cannot teach or suggest this feature.

Regarding the CA, the Examiner admits that the CA fails to even disclose a fastening member. *See Office Action, page 2, lines 9-14.* And it logically follows that the CA cannot teach or suggest the fastening member being used to fix the core material portion to the stamper.

Johnson does not correct this deficiency of the CA. In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that the die portions 12, 13 are equivalent to the stamper as recited and the platen member 16 is equivalent to the core material portion as recited. The Examiner further alleges that the guide rods 19, 20 are equivalent to the fastening member as recited. *See Office Action, page 3, lines 2-7.*

However, Johnson discloses that the die portions 12, 13 are slidably mounted in sockets 14, 15 in the fixed platen 16. The back of the die portions 12, 13 are in contact with compression springs 17, 18. *See Johnson, Column 2, lines 8-16.* Since the die portions 12 and 13 are slidably within the platen 16, the dies cannot be fixed to the platen 16, which is contrary to the feature of claim 1 as recited above. Applicants also note the opposing guides 21, 22

within the movable plate 25 are also slidable. *See Johnson, Column 3, lines 4-11.* It is clear that neither the CA nor Johnson teaches or suggests the feature of the core material portion fixed to said stamper by a fixing structure, wherein the fixing structure comprises at least one fastening member, and wherein the fastening member extends through the core material portion into the stamper as recited in claim 1. This is sufficient to distinguish claim 1 from the combination of the CA and Johnson.

Independent claim 5 recites, in part “wherein the stamper is a stamper electrotpe fixedly mounted on a core material portion using at least one fastening member” and forming at least one fastener hole through the core material portion and extending into the stamper electrotpe.” It is demonstrated above that neither the CA nor Johnson teaches or suggests this feature. Accordingly, independent claim 5 is also distinguishable over the CA and Johnson.

Claims 3-4 and 7-29 depend from independent claims 1 and 5, directly or indirectly. Accordingly, these dependent claims are also distinguishable over the CA and Johnson for at least due to their dependencies from independent claims.

The dependent claims are also distinguishable on their own merit. For example, claim 4 recites that the stamper is between 6 and 12 millimeters thick. *See also claim 8.* The Examiner recognizes that the CA only specifies

the stampers being between 0.1 and 0.4 millimeters thick. Then, the Examiner merely concludes that increasing the thickness would be obvious.

The Examiner is simply disregarding the explicit teachings of the CA. As stated in page 4 of the specification, which describes the conventional method of manufacturing the stamper, "the stamper 32 has a thickness of about 0.1 to 0.4 mm **because it is difficult to make a large plating thickness.**" One of ordinary skill, based on this information, would be motivated to refrain from increasing the thickness of the stamper. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's allegation, the problem of the CA does render increasing the stamper thickness as non-obvious.

Also, the Examiner stated that the recognition of the problems of the CA as pointed out by the Applicants may prompt one of ordinary skill in the art to explore different methods. This statement is erroneous. If the Examiner's statement is taken to its logical conclusion, then every invention counted will be obvious since the problems recognized by the inventors would prompt one of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the invention, and therefore would be unpatentable. Clearly, this cannot be.

As another example, claim 13 recites that a movable molding plate holds the movable core and the integral molding device. *See also claim 15.* In contrast, as illustrated in Figure 3 of the disclosure illustrating the

conventional art, the core 34 and the stamper 32 are held within the stationary molding plate 42. Thus, the CA is in direct contrast to this feature.

For at least the above-stated reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 3-5 and 7-29 based on the CA and Johnson be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

U.S. Application No. 10/702,551

Docket No. 2658-0314P

Art Unit: 1732

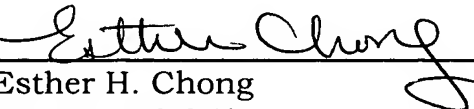
Page 7 of 7

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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